



Wright Water Engineers, Inc.

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August 12, 2015

**Via Email: [rogers@lpcattorney.org](mailto:rogers@lpcattorney.org)**

Sheryl Rogers  
La Plata County Attorney  
1099 Main Ave., Suite 311  
Durango, CO 81301

Re: Scope of Services for Independent Third Party Review of EPA Data and Analysis – Gold King Mine Incident

Dear Sheryl:

Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE) is providing this scope of work to provide consulting and technical services to La Plata County as an independent third party. The purpose of this scope of services is to provide independent third party analysis of the physical, chemical, and biological impacts to the Animas River and associated environs located within and upstream of La Plata County, Colorado in the wake of the recent spill from the Gold King Mine. Specific areas of interest include impacts to surface water, sediments, soils, irrigated agriculture, domestic and municipal uses, industrial and commercial uses including recreation, aquatic including benthic organisms, and wildlife uses. WWE has a wide array of adjunct scientists, engineers, technicians and geologists that will be employed.

WWE anticipates independent consulting services in four broad areas: 1) Review and comment of the Sampling Plan (Quality Assurance Project Plan), 2) Sampling and split sampling with EPA and contractors, 3) Review, interpretation, reporting and presentations on sampling results, findings and recommendations, and 4) Review and comment on short, intermediate, and long term remediation and treatment plans.

- 1) **Review and comments on Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):** This will occur both in its inception and for needed changes as the sampling program develops under an adaptive management strategy. Includes review and comments on draft plans and amendments, meetings and coordination with EPA, contractors and stakeholders, review of water, soil, and aquatic wildlife and benthic organisms and associated study areas, sampling locations, frequency, duration, methodology, parameters, data quality objectives, data archiving, access and management, and other areas that may arise.
- 2) **Third party sample collection based on the adopted QAPP:** This will range from independent sampling to splitting samples with EPA for independent lab testing within La Plata County and upstream contributing areas. Includes at a minimum 10 percent of the samples collected to have independent third party collection and analysis, includes 30 percent of samples collected to include sample splits and third party lab analysis.

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Includes sampling for groundwater, surface water, sediment, soils, and benthic organisms.

- 3) **Review, interpretation, reporting and presentations on sample results and documented findings by EPA, contractors and others:** Includes review and interpretation of monitoring data results including data collected and analyzed by independent third parties, EPA and contractors, and other State, Tribal and local organizations and stakeholders. Coordination with partners including adjunct scientists, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Geological Survey, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Review of draft and final reports prepared by EPA, associated contractors and others. Includes coordination, meetings, preparation of memos and reports, and presentations to La Plata County and associated stakeholders on findings.
- 4) **Review and comment on short, intermediate and long term remediation and treatment plans:** This will include current mine discharge treatment methodologies and plans for long term treatment of mine discharge including passive and active acid mine drainage treatment and bulk-heading of mine portals, adits and drifts in the Cement Creek Drainage. Independent review of spill and emergency response plans. Based on findings of the monitoring program, provide an independent review of proposed remediation plans of surface water, sediments, soils, groundwater (including domestic and public groundwater supplies located in unincorporated La Plata County), benthic organisms and aquatic wildlife species.

The estimated labor fee for the tasks identified above is \$150,000 to \$200,000. Expenses including but not limited to lab fees, mileage, sampling equipment, and grant administration are not included in the labor fee estimate. The labor fee estimate may need to be adjusted as the project unfolds.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call or e-mail.

Sincerely,  
WRIGHT WATER ENGINEERS, INC.

By   
Peter R. Foster, P.E.  
Vice-President